



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
PO Box 45040 • Olympia WA • 98504-5040

April 28, 2010

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to tell you about an important new resource on co-occurring child maltreatment and domestic violence that has been created to help Children's Administration social workers increase safety for children in families experiencing domestic violence.

The Social Worker's Practice Guide to Domestic Violence is an integral component of Children's Administration's response to co-occurring child maltreatment and domestic violence. We developed this practice guide in partnership with the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The guide provides Children's Administration social workers with information on current best practices for working with families experiencing intimate partner domestic violence. It includes guidelines for handling specific tasks such as:

- Screening for domestic violence at intake, investigation, service planning and case review.
- Conducting a specialized assessment of the risk that identified domestic violence poses to a child during the time Children's Administration works with a family.
- Case decision-making, service planning, and review of case situations involving families experiencing identified domestic violence.
- Documenting domestic violence in case files and integrating domestic violence issues into Children's Administration decision-making tools.

We have enclosed a printed copy of the practice guide. The guide (DSHS publication number 22-1314) is also available as a free PDF at:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/pubs3.html#CA>.

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If you would like more information about the guide, please contact Maureen Kelly at (360) 902-7901 or maureen.kelly@dshs.wa.gov or Colette McCully at (360) 902-7918 or colette.mccully@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Revels Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Denise Revels Robinson, MSW
Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration

cc: Colleen Cawston